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Local businesses join together for food drive downtown
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Women's basketball coach discusses her passion for the game
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The Advocate

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Student senate rethinks health care policy

By BEN SAILER
Assistant Editor

On Jan. 29, student senate voted to rescind their support for the university's mandatory healthcare policy and formed a committee to closer examine the details of the plan.

The vote passed almost unanimously, with all in favor except for one abstention.



WIESE

Several reasons for the decision were cited, including problems the opt-out policy has for students who don't want the plan and claims that it wasn't implemented the way it was initially promised to the senate.

"It has been severely mismanaged," freshman senate member Travis Loker said. "The whole opt-out program has not done very well. There's people who have opted out before the deadline that were still charged for it."

Each semester, students are automatically enrolled in the university's mandatory health-care plan; if a student doesn't want the coverage, it is their responsibility to opt out online.

However, many students neglected to do so, and the result is many may be getting stuck with an extra charge of around \$600 this semester alone

INSURANCE, BACK PAGE

Officials hope summer classes will raise revenue

By LISA CALL
Staff Writer

With a \$9.2 million deficit looming over MSUM, changes are being made wherever possible to try and combat the effects.

In recent town hall meetings held to discuss the budget, President Edna Szymanski said she hopes enrollment will increase with the new summer school schedule, increasing revenue.

A master agreement exists between the MnSCU Board of Trustees and the Inter Faculty Organization, of which all MSUM faculty belong.

The verbiage in what defines a "summer session" at a university changed last summer. Modified to a broader wording, defining a summer session as: "A summer session shall consist of the time between the last day of spring semester and the first day of fall semester or any portion thereof."

"The contract really allowed the change to happen and the idea we do need to have a summer school that is profitable for the university," Jean Sando said, associate vice president and dean of general education. "We serve some of the financially neediest counties."

SUMMER, PAGE 11

Psych lab wins grant

Experiments on vision development net \$150k



JESSE TRELSTAD / THE ADVOCATE

Professor Elizabeth Nawrot and assistant Kaity Jacobs run the program for a motion parallax experiment.

By ANDREW JASON
Staff Writer

What if eye problems could be diagnosed while an infant is only a month or two old? Many vision problems could be avoided, preventing a lifetime of disability.

This is exactly what MSUM professor of psychology Elizabeth Nawrot hopes to discover. Nawrot explored infant vision over the past year while she studied at the University of Minnesota on her sabbatical.

Nawrot believes that most infants between the ages of 12 to 20 weeks old develop a form of depth perception called motion parallax.

Problems with motion parallax can lead to vision problems later on in life.

"Motion parallax is a visual depth cue we get from motion," Nawrot said in a press release. "As we move, objects that are closer to us move farther across our field of view than do objects that are in the distance. Children discover this when looking out the window of a car. Faraway objects appear to hold still while nearby trees, street signs and light polls zoom by."

Nawrot hopes to trace the normal vision development of an infant. When this is, then she hopes that

GRANT, BACK PAGE

How it works

- Infants 12 to 20 months old are brought to lab by parents.
- While sitting on parent's lap, infants are shown visual stimuli.
- The infant's reactions tell researchers whether he or she can detect depth of field.
- The results will tell researchers at what ages children develop depth perception.

Talk spotlights Internet safety

By JENESSA McALLISTER
Staff Writer

The Internet is a phenomenal place. It allows users to do everything from social networking to statistical research. But there are some downfalls: safety and privacy are a rapidly growing concern among Web users.

Jean Kramer, technical services librarian, offered a Dean's Lecture Series event called "Online Identity and Privacy," on Monday.

According to Kramer, there is not one clear solution to the growing problem. The most important

thing to consider about Internet safety is to be aware.

"You never know who's on the other end. This can mean the other end of an online purchase or on the other end of a Facebook chat," Kramer said. "Your name and information could be in hundreds to thousands of places, all with electronic trails, so it's important to pay close attention."

Identity exchange is a social necessity. It holds everything from personal assets, such as bank accounts and privileges, as well as access into closed buildings and

legal rights and reputations.

Automated identity comes in many forms. Passwords, barcodes, IP addresses and magnetic strips are just a few.

There are three basic points to consider when talking about online security and privacy.

These are who could be watching, who could get personal contact information and the possibility of identity theft. These categories can all range from minor issues to very serious consequences.

LECTURE, BACK PAGE

The Advocate has teamed up with Hendrix to answer students' questions about sex.
Submit questions to advocate@mnstate.edu
or slide it under the door of CMU 110.

Features

Growing downtown works together

Fargo Downtowner Association hosts food drive for the community

TONY FRACASSI

Staff Writer

Fargo's downtown area has seen quite a bit of growth in the past couple years.

From renovations to new businesses, the once-destitute vicinity has begun to flourish.

The region's businesses are taking advantage of these changes, working together to promote interest within the community.

The Fargo Downtowner Association is working in collaboration with several art, dining and retail establishments to run a food drive for The Salvation Army in the hope that it will bring awareness to people in the city of all that businesses have to offer.

The food drive will run through Saturday in several businesses. Downtown retailers will collect non-perishable food items all week.

The Fargo Downtowner Association was founded

in 2007 by Renaissance Productions. The association hopes to promote historic downtown Fargo by rallying businesses to work together. This is the first year the organization is running a food drive.

Area businesses working with the Fargo Downtowner Association have made walking maps pinpointing the Broadway stores. The handouts also include information on the businesses.

"NDSU housing should really help the downtown area out. I would like to schedule events seasonally. We want people to be aware of all that historic downtown has to offer," Mark Weiler owner of ecce art + yoga said.

With the modified Fargo Renaissance Zone Plan of 2005, many investors contributed to the renovation and development of the downtown area. Millions of dollars

have been put into downtown properties for construction and remodeling purposes.

The area brought in more revenue in the past few years. Area bars like The Aquarium have frequent music acts. The Fargo Theatre offers a wider variety of movies for consumers and many of the downtown art studios have begun to thrive.

"I want to do events on a regular basis to let people know about the heart of downtown," Weiler said. "Association businesses working together have a profound effect on the community."

Anyone interested in the food drive or the Fargo Downtowner can visit www.fargodowntowner.com. The participating businesses will have cardboard collection boxes for the non-perishable food.

Fracassi can be reached at fracassian@mnstate.edu



CHRIS ERICKSON / THE ADVOCATE

Ecce owner, Mark Weiler, stands in the back of his shop. Ecce is one of the many stores in the Fargo Downtowner's Association sponsoring an upcoming food drive.

MSUM'S dance team making it big

Rebuilt team falls short at nationals, but remains upbeat and determined

SAJIB ALAM

Staff Writer

The Dragon dance team ended their national tour in Orlando, Fla., with a promising performance at both locals and nationals.

It started Jan. 10 with their performance in the Spirit of America competition at the Mall of America.

"The team has come leaps and bounds from how we looked last summer," coach Marissa Parmer said.

Twenty-five teams performed in the regional tournament including NDSU, University of Wisconsin and University of Minnesota, from Division 3 to Division 1.

"Being a young team and a rebuilding year, the girls have truly excelled in their talents, and will strive even more the coming summer, and into the next season," Parmer said.

The dance team placed 9th in Open Dance and 7th in Hip-Hop. In the national level, 31 teams performed in total among Division 1, Division 2, Division 3 and the NAIA. In open dance, they were among the top 10 teams but did not do as well in hip-hop.

"Although we did not have the performance of the girls at nationals in our open dance, I could not be prouder of the strides made this season. The ladies came, shook off that performance and came out and rocked their hip-hop routine."

Team captain, senior Kim Ness, thinks that the team was new and worked to the best of their ability, which was clear at their performance in the Mall of America.

"I hope to continue to help this team grow and gain new

talent as well. Come April, we want to do our off-season work that is needed to reach the goal of two trophies from nationals next year," Parmer said.

She thinks that the judges wanted club moves instead of hip-hop, which made the difference in the national level.

The other captain, junior Jess Strait, thinks that the girls were vigorous and energetic, which helped them to build teamwork.

It was a great year for the

dance team with many freshmen who are eager to perform next year too.

Their positive attitude was clear in the open dance at the national level where they scored 30 points more than the previous year.

Even though this year is coming to and end for the dance team, there is always another year to improve and bring home more trophies.

Alam can be reached at alamsaj@mnstate.edu

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Support for health care plan rescinded by student senate

The student body can thank their student senators for standing up for their best interest.

Last week, student senate rescinded their support of the student health care plan.

When the health care plan went into effect at the beginning of this school year, it was met with much confusion on the part of students. Instead of students deciding to opt in to the program, they were required to opt out.

The administration, along with Hendrix, advertised the plan via e-mails to students, leaving those who do not check their inboxes in the dark.

Along with confusing publicity for the plan, an actual copy of the policy was not available to students until after the opt-out date.

After all the hubbub, student senate decided they needed to take a closer look at the plan.

The policy itself seems sound. It was the execution and lack of forewarning many students objected to. The student senate heard these complaints, and after only one full semester of the trial period, decided it wasn't working.

They will review the policy and discuss other students' requests to opt in to the plan, rather than opt out.

The senate is our voice to the administration on nearly all official decisions, be it insurance or even tuition.

In fact, a new tuition payment plan is under discussion for the upcoming year. These changes will affect each of us in different ways, and it's important to be informed before the fact, not after.

If you are curious about upcoming issues the senate will decide, they encourage any students to stop in to their weekly meetings, held at 5 p.m. on Thursdays in CMU 205.

President Edna Szymanski also holds monthly town hall meetings regarding the budget, another issue that directly affects students.

These meetings are packed with faculty and staff who face losing their jobs and having programs cut. Although students are directly affected by this, they have yet to make much of a showing in these meetings.

Students need to start getting informed on what's happening at MSUM and voice their opinions.

The opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and your turn submissions. They should be typed and must include the writer's name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m.

Monday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off in The Advocate office or e-mailed to advocate@mnstate.edu.

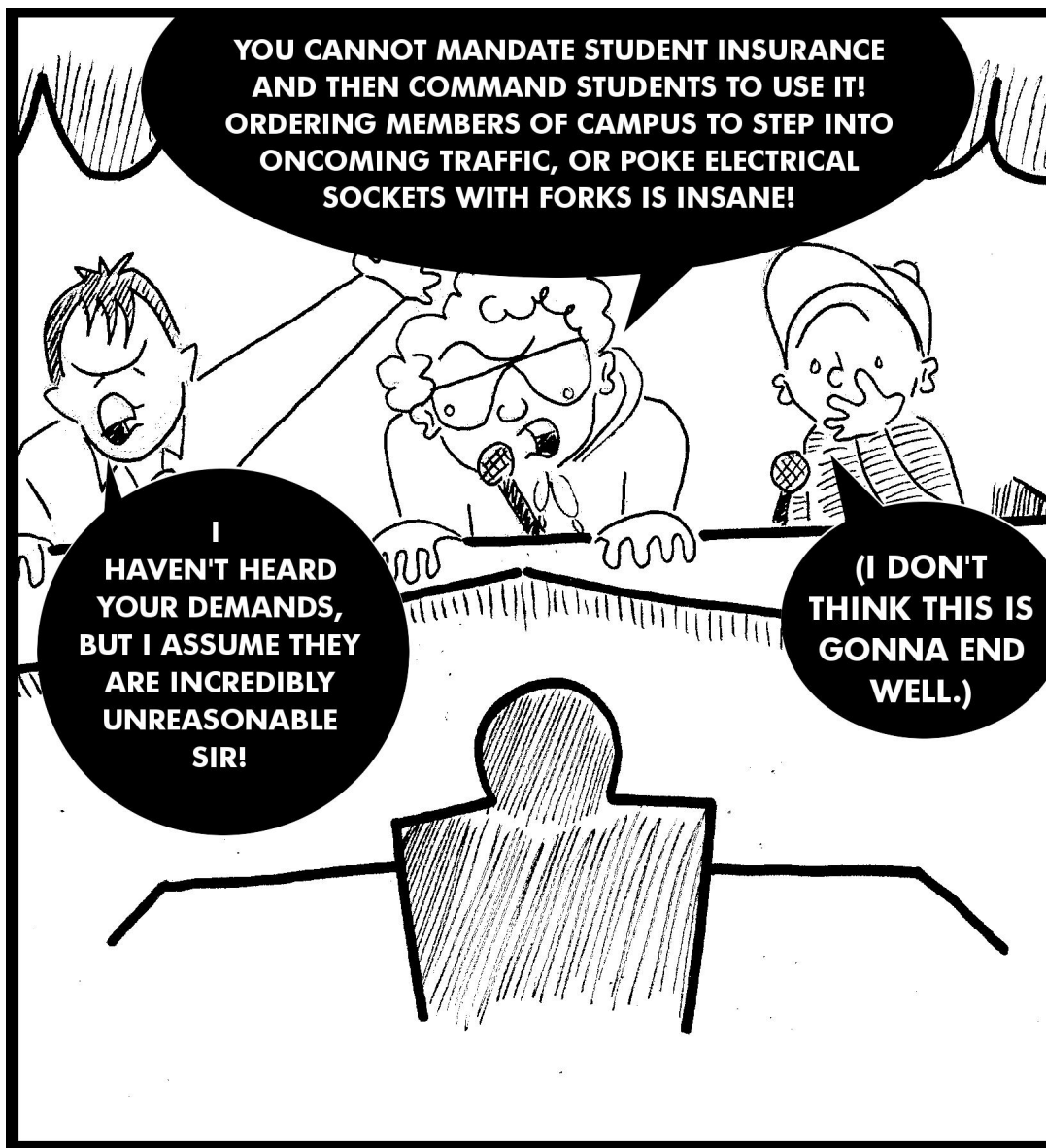


Illustration by John Berdahl / The Advocate

Let's talk about sex!

The Advocate teamed up with Hendrix Health to answer students' questions about sexual issues. Inquiries are published anonymously.

Q: How easy or difficult is it to get the morning-after pill at Hendrix?

A: Plan B is the emergency contraceptive used at Hendrix Health.

It works to prevent pregnancy up to 72 hours after unprotected sex or a contraceptive failure.

Plan B is not an abortion pill. The use of Plan B will not terminate or have any effect

on an existing pregnancy.

In 2008, Plan B became available over the counter. This means that it is available at most pharmacies without a prescription to people 18 years old and older. If a woman is younger than 18, she will need to see a health care provider for Plan B.

At Hendrix Health, Plan B is available from our pharmacy, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The cost of Plan B at Hendrix is \$20.

Carol Grimm
Director of Health and Wellness, Hendrix Health

Winter showers bring wet socks

In February it is normally bitter cold in the North Dakota - Minnesota area, but recently it has been extremely warm. The weather has been so nice that it's even raining and a lot of the snow that we've accumulated in the past month is just about depleted.

This is both good and bad. It's awesome because of the wonderful weather and not having to freeze your bum off walking to class. I've even been walking around the past couple days with just a sweat-shirt — it's amazing.

There is a downside to this lovely weather: flooding. Almost all of the streets and sidewalks have been flooded and it is almost impossible to get anywhere without stepping in a huge puddle.

Cars driving by don't have much consideration either. They will fly by at their normal speed, anywhere between

Miranda Hasse
Columnist



20 to 30 mph. When there are huge lakes on the road even going 20 mph can splash someone walking on the other side of the road.

Parking on the street has become difficult with all this slush and water on the roads. The water doesn't want to go anywhere, so it just sits on the side of the road where people park. I had to stand on the edge of my car and leap over a huge puddle that was probably a foot deep. Even leaping from my car, I still unfortunately got wet.

Don't get me wrong, I absolutely love the rain, but this slush business isn't fun. Plus, you can't even walk on some

of the sidewalks because they are completely flooded, and there is no way around them besides walking down the middle of the road.

Over the past couple days I've been contemplating whether or not I should go out and buy a cute pair of rain boots. I feel like it would be a good investment because of all the puddles I keep walking through.

So my word of advice to those of you jumping, leaping and scuttling along so you don't fall on the ice that is still on the roads is to invest in some rain boots. You may not want to or think they are the cutest shoes, but with the weather we've been having lately, you'll really appreciate not having soaking wet feet in class.

How about this weather?
E-mail Hasse
at hassemi@mnstate.edu

Opinion

Embracing Valentines Day traditions

Valentine's Day is right around the corner. As if you couldn't tell; Valentine's Day is arguably one of the most garish, oppressive, overly-commercialized holidays we celebrate. The whole season can wear on you, especially if you happen to be single on Feb. 14.

I completely appreciate the anti-Valentine's Day sentiment. It's understandable, but not necessary. Here are some ways to make Valentine's Day work for you:

Celebrate with the people you love. This doesn't have to be a significant other. Send cards to your best friends, your parents, your family or

Liz Johanson
Columnist



Valentine's Day and send a card to someone who maybe won't get as many.

"But Liz," you might say, "I hate pink. I hate hearts.

I hate Hallmark." I understand. Pink is not my favorite color either. So, reject the corporate card business and make some of your own valentines. Construction paper is way cheaper than a box of SpongeBob cards anyway (not that there's anything wrong with SpongeBob).

There are plenty of other

colors besides pink and red. There are no rules — only traditions. If your best friend will be most receptive to a black piece of construction paper with a skull on it, give it a try. If you're simply in the mood to be more creative, send only green valentines or only blue.

If you're not interested in celebrating any of your own relationships on Valentine's Day, you still have a few good options. Help other people with their relationships by donating to the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center or the Big Brother Big Sister program.

You could also celebrate someone else's relationship. Look up how long your

grandparents or parents have been together and send them a note of congratulations. True love isn't easy to come by, and lasting marriages seem even rarer.

If you do have a significant other, don't worry about how much money you can spend on them, or whether or not they'll like what you get them. Remember that diamonds are only very shiny, very expensive rocks.

A bar of chocolate with a bow on top and a sincere "I love you" should do just fine.

How do you celebrate?
E-mail Johanson
at johansel@mnstate.edu

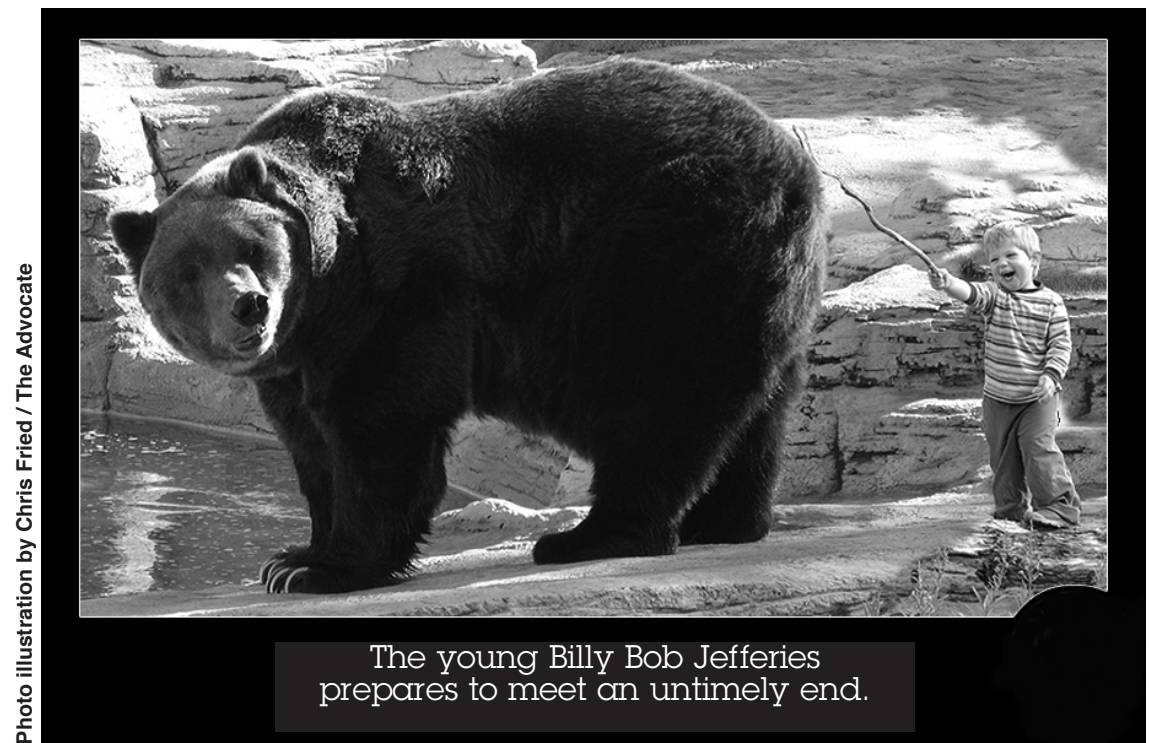


Photo illustration by Chris Fried / The Advocate

Keep safe, get a prenuptial

My columns seem to demonstrate a pattern. I'm a buzz kill. So, with Valentines Day on Saturday, I'd like to talk to you about divorce.

Let me give you some quick statistics. Almost everyone knows that roughly 50 percent of marriages end in divorce. Most are not shocked to find out that there is also a 50 percent infidelity rate in marriages (the rate is also equal for wives as it is for husbands).

I am a big fan of divorce. It's not the most desirable outcome, but it sure beats spending several decades with someone you don't like. Another reason I like divorce,

Ryan Fliginger
Columnist



there is a correlation between the increase in divorce and the decrease in domestic violence.

With it being a coin toss as to whether a marriage will end in divorce, why are so many people who are getting married not getting prenuptial agreements?

"Prenups" can make the divorce process less messy by planning ahead of time how to dissolve property, child

custody and support, alimony, as well as protect property held by spouses prior to the marriage.

Not getting a prenup before you marry is like not wearing your seatbelt in a car that has a 50 percent chance of crashing.

When they came up with "till death do us part" the average lifespan was 40. Our generation has the potential to be the longest lived so far.

So ask yourself this, do you think you can tolerate your sweetheart until you are 100?

Issues with the prenup?
E-mail Fliginger
at fliginry@mnstate.edu

Generation gap

Alicia Strnad
Columnist



When I came back to MSUM after a few years off, I expected to feel a disconnect from the younger people in a few of my classes. What I didn't expect was that I would feel like a geriatric sore thumb.

On the very first day of class, one of my professors made a reference to the worldwide panic leading up to the year 2000. The girl sitting behind me muttered, "Geez, I was, like, 9 when that happened. Like, who remembers stuff from that long ago?"

Later, the professor referenced other news events of the '90s — Lorena Bobbit, Waco, Kurt Cobain, Nancy Kerrigan — only to receive blank looks from the rest of the class.

It was disheartening to realize that, for most of my new classmates, the formative events of my coming of age are only the subject of an episode of VH1's "I love the '90s."

Of course, because of this generation gap, I know my new classmates are thinking of me as the old lady in the room. Yes, I do carry a lot of hard candy, but that's no reason for these whippersnappers to look at me like they're waiting for me to pull out snapshots of my grandkids.

I don't blame the members of the Facebook generation for not getting my references to "ALF" or "Saved by the Bell," but I wish we could find some common ground other than, "So, uh, what'd you think of the reading?"

I suppose my only hope is that they'll think of me as wise, rather than senile, and consider me their old-person mascot instead of looking at me as the geezer invading their turf.

If nothing else, I hope they'll be patient with my confusion with their strange 21st-century ways and that they won't mind sitting next to me in class, despite the old-lady smell. Maybe I'll have to bribe them with a butterscotch hard candy.

Feel a disconnect at school?
E-mail Strnad
at strnadal@mnstate.edu

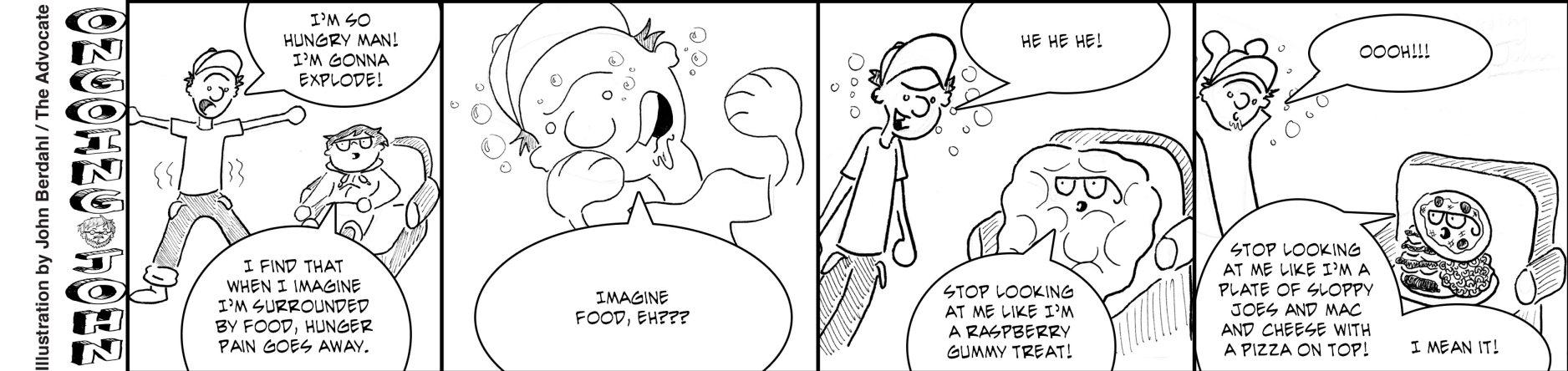


Illustration by John Berdahl / The Advocate

Umoja hosts 'Night of Tradition'

By **ASHLEY HOECK**
Staff Writer

This Friday, countless men and women will no doubt be up late worrying about Valentine's Day plans.

That will be different, though, for any students attending "A Night of Tradition" in the CMU.

The event, put on by the Umoja organization, promises to be a night like no other. Dancing, food, music and magic are all scheduled, as well as a vocal performance by EMBRA-TOR.

Umoja, which means "unity" in Swahili, is a student organization at MSUM led by president Jered Pigeon. According to Pigeon, the group has not been very active in the past, and the new president wanted to make their presence known on campus and in the community.

With an organization made up of almost entirely new members with a new name and goal, the group has flourished in the past months, even winning Student Organization of the Month.

The group was also able to send three members to the inauguration of President



SAYWARD HONER / THE ADVOCATE

Saru Pokhard, Sunita Thapa, Neharika Upadhyaya and Kabina Chaulagain practice a Nepalese dance in the CMU 101 for "A Night of Tradition" that will be at 6 p.m. this Friday.

Barack Obama in January.

Not resting on their present accomplishments, the group wanted to do more. In November, they started planning "A Night of Tradition."

In keeping with the group's

theme of unity, the organization planned a night which focused not just on African culture, but on cultures around the globe.

The event will include African, Indian and Nepalese dances, Jamaican entertainment, a Japanese magic show, singing performances, an African food buffet, a presentation of the members' trip to the inauguration, a fashion show and much more.

Pigeon credited junior Nadia Bikoi as a leading force behind the planning and execution of the event, working as the dance coordinator and stirring up support at other campuses.

"Nadia has been working endlessly," Pigeon said. "We couldn't have done this without her."

"Students should expect to learn about different cultures, and see members of different communities doing their dances," Pigeon said. "They're going to have fun and learn a lot and enjoy some really good food."

"At this event, students can come, socialize and improve on their network of friends," sophomore Godwin Kessy, an Umoja member originally from Tanzania, said. "You need friends from all around the world and to get a network of people. Seeing the different cultures will give people insight into other people's lives."

Students wishing to make a romantic connection may also want to participate.

"The next day is Valentine's Day, so why not bring a part-

ner?" Pigeon said. "Or, if you're single, there's going to be a lot of other single people there. You could get a date."

Junior Davis Nyariki, originally from Kenya, plans to attend the event and is looking forward to getting a taste of home.

"I'm looking forward to being able to feel at home and blending in," Nyariki said. "I'm really excited to meet everybody and enjoy some really good food."

"We're going to have Ugali, which is an African cake, and Chapati, which is like a tortilla, and much more. It's going to be great."

There will be enough food to feed about 100 to 110 people, and it is on a first-come, first-serve basis, so students wishing to get a taste of Africa will want to show up on time.

The event is slated to begin around 6 p.m., with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Everything will take place in the CMU ballroom, with the performances coming first.

The meal will be served at about 8 p.m., after the activities are over. After the meal, the group has planned a social dance to last until midnight, with a mix of traditional African music, modern music, hip-hop and more.

All students are welcome and the event is free to everyone, although donations are welcome.

Students wishing to get more information about Umoja or join the organization are welcome to come to Umoja meetings, which are held at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday in CMU 208.

Hoeck can be reached at hoeckas@mnstate.edu



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5TH AVENUE NYC

The Group brings entertainment to campus

Student organization hosts comedians, musical acts, Dragons After Dark and more

By BRIANNA BRICKWEG
Staff Writer

MSUM's campus holds many activities, varying from comedians, musicians and educational speakers, but where do these activities come from?

Dragon Entertainment Group, formerly Campus Activities Board, is a student organization that programs entertaining and educational events for students to attend.

The Group has been on campus for more than 20 years with several name changes. The Group changed their name from CAB to The Group for a few reasons.

First, it didn't accurately describe what The Group does. The name was too broad and made people assume the group did things on campus that they don't. Second, they were very easily confused with the Drive a Dragon program. Third, half the universities in the US have a Campus Activities Board because there is no better name for it.

"We wanted to start setting ourselves apart from those people," Christopher Braddock, outreach coordinator of Dragon Entertainment Group, said. "We wanted to come up with a name that uniquely identifies this group



JESSE TRELSTAD / THE ADVOCATE

Senior Barbra Michel, front, and sophomore Amy Griese work in the Dragon Entertainment Group office. The next event will be Valentine's Day Candy Roses on Friday in the CMU main lounge.

for this campus."

The Group sponsors various types of events on campus, such as an annual hypnotist for homecoming, a mentalist for Dragon Frost, magicians, musical acts such as Underground Unplugged and Afternoon Delight, Battle of the Bands, educational speakers, Dragons After Dark, fundraisers such as bake sales

and the annual poster sale and much more.

Dustin DeTar, the music coordinator for Dragon Entertainment Group, said The Group sponsors "fun and entertaining activities" that are often educational.

"We try to give the students and the community in general quality entertainment and a good time," DeTar said.

Braddock has been with The Group for two years; as the outreach coordinator this year and as the executive director last year. He finds co-sponsorships for events and sponsors fundraising events such as the candy rose sale, which is being held in the CMU Main Lounge today.

The Group encourages anyone to come to their office in CMU 231 and talk to them.

"We want to program events

that the students want to see," Braddock said. "But if we don't talk to the students, we don't know what they want."

If you want to see a particular act or have general questions or ideas for The Group, stop in the office anytime, and The Group will take the idea into consideration and see if they can get a program to bring your idea to campus.

The Group is also recruiting committee members to help with events.

Some upcoming events The Group is sponsoring include the Valentine's dance, which is being held from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Feb. 20.

Brickweg can be reached at brickwbr@mnstate.edu

Upcoming Dragon Entertainment Group events

8 p.m., Feb. 17
Christopher Carter –
Mentalist - Underground

9 p.m., Feb. 20
DragonFrost Formal Dance
- CMU Ballroom

12 p.m., Feb. 24
Afternoon Delight - CMU
Main Lounge

Release Calendar

Movies

Feb. 13

"Friday the 13th" - R

"Confessions of a Shopaholic" - PG

"The International" - R

"Two Lovers" - R

Games

Feb. 16

"Fire Emblem: Shadow Dragon" - DS

Feb. 17

"Street Fighter 4" - X360/PS3

"Dragon Quest 5" - DS

Music

Feb. 10

Thursday

"Common Existence"

The Appleseed Cast

"Sagarmatha"

Morrissey

"Years of Refusal"

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Coach led by passion

Following her coaching dream kept Nelson in the classroom

By JOHN HANSEN
Staff Writer

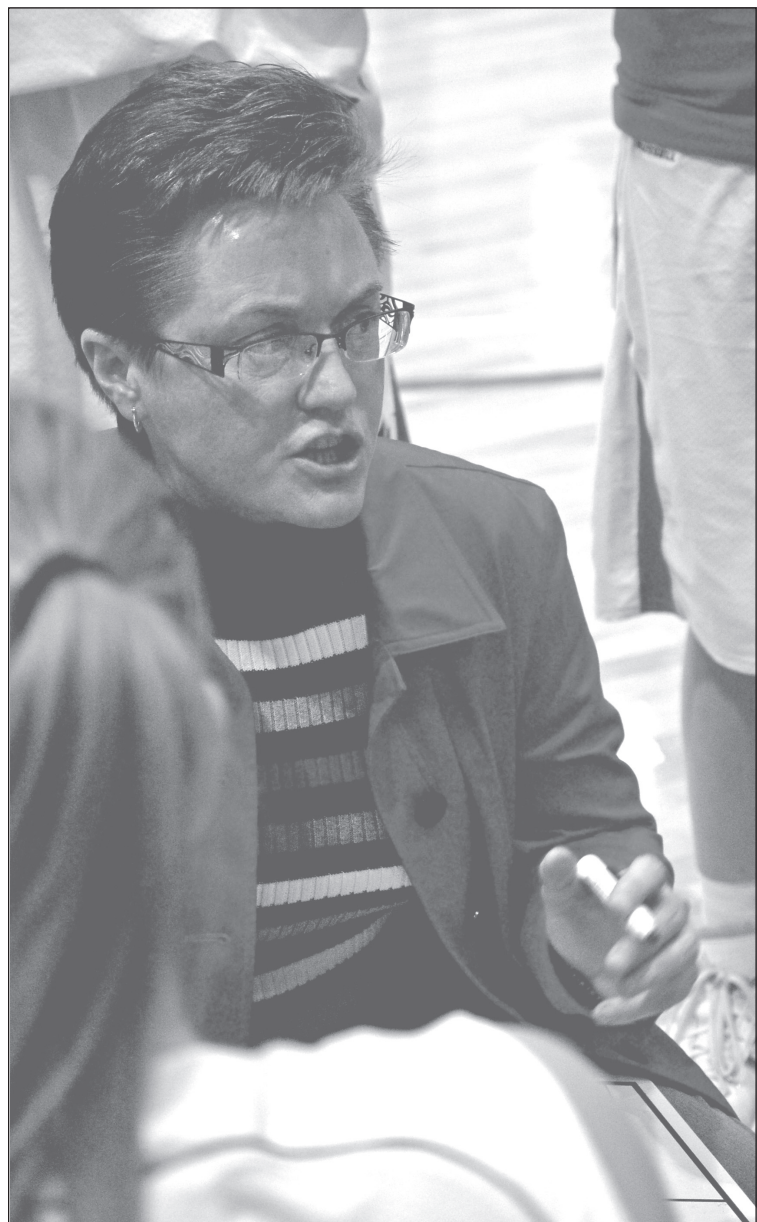
Some people spend their whole lives trying to figure out what they want to do when they grow up. Women's basketball coach Karla Nelson isn't one of those people. She has wanted to coach hoops since second grade.

After playing basketball from 1985 to 1989 at UND, the Erskine, N.D., native took side trips into color commentary, fitness and softball coaching.

She started as an assistant coach with the Dragons in 1994 and landed the head position in 2000.

Nelson recently fielded 10 questions from The Advocate.

Q&A



JOHN HANSEN / THE ADVOCATE

MSUM head women's basketball coach Karla Nelson instructs her team during a timeout in Friday's loss to Southwest Minnesota State at Nemzek.

Q: Was playing basketball a path to coaching?

A: Sure. Playing basketball was a way for me to develop confidence. Because I wasn't a particularly good student, I didn't really like going to class, but I had to if I wanted to play basketball. Basketball was a motivator for me to go to college. Some people think athletics takes away from academics. Well, in my case it motivated me to go to class and pass my classes.

Q: Were there any coaches you learned from?

A: Absolutely. My high school coaches had a huge impact on me. And Doreen Zierer, she was our assistant coach (at UND). She took the time to show me what she was doing with recruiting and game preparation — I wanted to do those things.

Q: What do you do in the offseason, outside of your job duties?

A: I love to play golf. I play on a 40-and-over softball team that travels to the western parts of the U.S., and we play in a lot of tournaments. Then I have three dogs that occupy a lot of my time and two cats.

Q: Have you ever slept in your office after a long day of work?

A: No, I have better balance than that. (My three dogs) expect me to come home, and having them has brought some balance to my life. They don't care if we win or lose.

Q: Who do you most admire?

A: Our former athletic director, Katy Wilson. She's the one

that saw I could be successful at this job.

Q: Do you have a motto you coach by?

A: I don't have a motto, but one thing I repeat over and over is "You have to have passion in the things that mean a lot to you."

Q: If you weren't a coach, what would you be doing?

A: I would love to design golf courses. When I was an assistant coach here, I had a part-time job at the Moorhead Country Club — I mowed the greens and that stuff. It was early in the morning, so you looked at things so differently. The sky seemed a little bluer, you could hear the birds a little clearer; you looked at grass and trees differently. I love the idea of sculpting something to look beautiful.

Q: Do you have a good sports book to recommend?

A: "Raise the Roof," by (University of Tennessee coach) Pat Summitt. That I thoroughly enjoyed.

Q: What's your best memory of coaching the Dragons?

A: The 2004-2005 season where we went 24-7 and set a school record for wins. The wins were terrific, but I'll also remember everybody from that team. They were fun to be around.

Hansen can be reached at johnvhansen@hotmail.com

This is the first in a weekly series profiling Dragon coaches.

NOTES FROM NEMZEK

Wrestlers lose to Concordia

The Dragon wrestling team lost 15-18 to Concordia on Feb. 4.

The Dragons went on to lose two duals this weekend as well.

The team fell 22-17 against Division I NDSU in the Bison Sports Arena.

The Dragons claimed five wins in the 10 matches, including a technical fall by Matt Nelson at 197 pounds, but this was not enough to win them the dual.

The Dragons then lost 31-13 at Utah Valley.

With the losses the Dragons fall to 6-10 overall and continue their five-loss streak.

The team will travel to St. Cloud State and Southwest Minnesota State this weekend.

Women fall to No. 22 in Division II polls

Despite a weekend split, the women's basketball team remains in the top 25 on the latest Division II poll announced Tuesday.

After winning 59-57 against Southwest Minnesota State, the team went on to lose 53-89 against MSU Mankato.

After the losses, the team fell to 22nd in the rankings.

The team hits the road for a weekend of NSIC games against Bemidji State on Friday and University of Minnesota Duluth on Saturday.

Tennis begins season

The women's tennis team begins their season Saturday at Grand Forks playing University of Minnesota Crookston.

Last year the team finished fourth at the NSIC tournament.

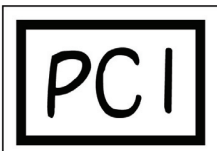
Head coach Gary Harris will have some rebuilding, but the current mix of seasoned veterans and promising newcomers is reason for optimism.

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Dragons, 8-13, defeated twice at home



COLE RYG / THE ADVOCATE

Junior Dwayne Hardy shoots for two points during Saturday's game against MSU Mankato. The team lost 64-79 and fell to 8-13 overall.

Advocate Staff Reports

The Dragons fell 67-78 to Southwest Minnesota State on Friday and 64-79 to MSU Mankato on Saturday. Justyn Burgess led the

Dragons in scoring with 24 points.

The Dragons are 8-13 overall and 4-11 in conference play. Only five games remain on the schedule before conference

tournament play begins. Of the five, only two are at home. The Dragons head on the road to take on Bemidji State and the University of Minnesota Duluth this weekend.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Van Havermaet shows promise after redshirting

By ROSS TORGERSON
Staff Writer

Sophomore Andrew Van Havermaet is a small-town kid with big-time game.

Humble on and off the court, his poise and precision can be clearly seen each time he shoots a basketball.

"One thing about Van Havermaet is he gets the ball off high and gets it off quick," head coach Stu Engen said. "He is just a great shooter."

Van Havermaet grew up in Hawley, Minn. He was a three-sport athlete for the Nuggets, lettering in football, baseball and basketball.

"Playing in a small town was great," Van Havermaet said. "I had the opportunity to play varsity at a younger age than if I was at a larger school, and it helped me develop into a well-rounded player."

During his senior year at Hawley High School, he averaged 19 points, 7 rebounds and 7 assists and was co-MVP of the Heart O' Lakes Conference with fellow Dragon teammate Jake Driscoll.

The numbers that Van Havermaet put up caught the eye of Dragon recruiters and, in particular, Engen.

"We got to see him play early and right away," Engen said. "We could see that he could shoot the ball."

When he was offered the chance to play basketball at MSUM, Van Havermaet knew it was an easy choice. He was going to be a Dragon.

"I chose MSUM because it was close to home, and it was in one of the most competitive conferences in the nation," Van Havermaet said. "Both my parents went to MSUM, as well as my sister, so I have always been around MSUM

my entire life."

Van Havermaet spent his first year as a red-shirt freshman. Red-shirted players do not play in any games, but otherwise fully participate with the team. This gives the player fifth-year eligibility. Engen, along with Van Havermaet, agreed to the red-shirting process for him.

"Redshirting allowed me to adjust to the speed and physical aspect of the college game," Van Havermaet said.

And so far this season, it seems as though all that time on the bench is finally paying off. Van Havermaet is averaging nearly 10 points per game along with three rebounds. He is also leading the team in three-point attempts this year with 102, making 34 of them.

Van Havermaet set a career high with 23 points against Upper Iowa, and over his past five games, he averaged 12 points per game. But Engen insists that although Van Havermaet is an excellent offensive player, he needs to become a more multi-dimensional player.

"Andrew's court sense is very good," Engen said. "But to become a more complete player he needs to get to the free-throw line and become a better defender away from the ball."

Although this season for the Dragons has seen its share of ups and downs, Van Havermaet is confident in the young core group of guys that they have.

"I hope to win a conference title while I'm here," Van Havermaet said.

Torgerson can be reached at torgerro@mnstate.edu

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ARO offers variety of student services

Academic Resource Office provides help with registration, advising and more

By ANNA GEORGE
Staff Writer

If you're having a hard time figuring out where to go, what classes to take or are just lost in general, the Academic Resource Office is here to assist.

"We offer advising services, basic registration, college success workshops, academic service-learning, Accuplacer and Praxis testing, as well as coordinate with many departments," director of the academic resource office Diane Wolter said. "In short, we do lots and lots of different things."

Along with professional positions, the ARO also has several student positions. There are students with general office duties as well as students who tutor and peer advise.

"I help advise students and answer questions to anyone who comes in," senior peer adviser Jennifer Felch said. "The ARO offers students

to help students. I think this makes it less intimidating."

Felch chose to work at the ARO because she thought it would be a great experience and she believes in what the ARO has to offer.

"I enjoy working at the ARO," Felch said, "I think it's fun and I always learn something new."

Sophomore Matt Peck is another peer adviser who likes working at the ARO.

"The people who work here have a lot of fun," Peck said. "The peer advisors really care

about their job and understand they are here to help."

Peck works at the front desk, helping students with questions and answering the peer adviser helpline.

"Often students are reluctant to ask faculty some of their more basic questions, but here they may ask a peer adviser who may be less threatening," Wolter said.

Being that the ARO is new, improvement is still needed.

“Never be afraid to come in and ask about something. If we don't know the answer, we'll do our best to find out”

Diane Wolter
Director of the Academic Resource Office



TAAREN HAAK / THE ADVOCATE

The Academic Resource Office is located on the lower floor in Flora Frick and is available to assist students in variety of ways, including peer advising, helping with registration and more.

For the future, strengthening the ARO's partnership with other departments will be able to help the school and students. The ARO can then become more knowledgeable about all departments.

"I think that the ARO needs to be bigger," Felch said. "We

offer so much in the office it's just not big enough for everyone and everything it has to offer."

The number one priority of the ARO is to serve students.

"Never be afraid to come in and ask about something," Wolter said. "If we don't

know the answer, we'll do our best to find out."

The ARO is located in Flora Frick 151 and is open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday.

George can be reached at georgean@mnstate.edu

Holmquist used for SWAT team practice drill

By HEATHER EHRLICH
Staff Writer

Screams and gunshots pierce the calm of a mundane afternoon on campus. A fellow student has taken the lives of 32 of his classmates and now lays dead by his own hand.

The Virginia Tech shoot-

ing described above is the extreme worst-case scenario MSUM Director of Security Michael Parks had in mind when he contacted the Red River Valley SWAT team.

Parks called not to raise an alarm, but to offer the currently vacant Holmquist dormitory on MSUM campus as

a training site for the specialized unit last Thursday.

"MSUM security approached the commander of the SWAT team and one of things that is always difficult to find are good facilities to use that replicate real life situations," Parks said.

Parks further explained that

as the Red River Valley SWAT team is comprised of members from around the region, not all members are as familiar with MSUM campus as the Moorhead Police Department and campus security who also participated in the drill.

"If, god forbid, (the SWAT team) would have to come

onto campus, they've worked with our staff now and it would be that much easier for them. It's a huge advantage for MSUM as a whole," senior Sam Bollman said, a criminal justice major who also works for campus security.

Bollman said the scenarios he observed involved "simulated barricaded subjects, and the team got a chance to work in a dorm setting with small rooms and narrow hallways and things like that," which normal shifts as a campus security member wouldn't have offered him.

Student reactions to the SWAT presence varied from supportive to oblivious.

"If it's for protecting the students I think it's good, stuff could happen anywhere any time so it's good," freshman Kevin Brossart said. "Especially if there's no students in or around the building."

"There was a SWAT team on campus? I didn't even hear about it," senior Sean Palmer said.

Ehrichs can be reached at heather.ehrichs.angell@gmail.com

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Grad designs for NASCAR

By GLENN TORNELL
Special to The Advocate

Dan Nisbet's senior art project at MSUM set a record for national exposure that's not about to be lapped soon.

More than five million people, in the grandstands and on prime-time cable television, watched his artwork zoom around Lowe's Motor Speedway near Charlotte, N.C., last fall with NASCAR superstar Kyle Busch behind the wheel as the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing driver won the 300-mile Dollar General Nationwide Series race.

For Nisbet, who designed the car's visual scheme, it was a moment he won't forget.

"I was a nervous wreck watching it on television in my Fargo apartment," said Nisbet, who earned a degree in graphic communications from MSUM last year. "And when Kyle Busch actually won the race, I was stunned."

This week, at least two cars will carry his paint scheme at the 51st Daytona 500, which will be televised nationally on Feb. 15 (#13 Geico car driven by Max Papis and #34 Windows World car driven by John Andretti). The race marks the opening of the NASCAR season and is considered the biggest, richest and most prestigious motorsports event in the United States.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

MSUM graphic communications major Dan Nisbet now designs visual schemes for pro race cars. Kyle Busch, whose car features his work, won the Dollar General Nationwide Series.

The design on the winning Busch car at Lowe's Motor Speedway last year was literally what Nisbet packaged for his senior art project. It was later picked up by NOS Energy Drink, a product of The Coca-Cola Company, a major sponsor of 23-year-old NASCAR superstar driver Busch.

"I contacted the NOS people for permission to use their logo for my senior project," Nisbet said. "They not only okayed it, they sent me three cases of NOS, a bunch of T-shirts and other stuff, which I gave away during my project presentation."

Today when Nisbet isn't working his day job as a graphic designer for Studio 7 Productions in Fargo, he spends his evenings designing race car schemes for CM2 Concepts in Indianapolis, a graphic company specializing in motorsports marketing.

"It's a very niche market," according to Bart Kelley, owner of CM2. "We're one of only about four companies in the country focusing almost exclusively on motorsport designs."

Tornell can be reached at tornell@mnstate.edu

SUMMER, FRONT

Financial aid is also undergoing a minor facelift.

"We are adding additional money to our work study program," said Carolyn Zehren, director of Financial Aid. "We will make employment on campus more available."

Changes have occurred in grant distribution as well.

"The other part that is fairly new, Minnesota residents could previously receive a fall and spring grant, but students that are enrolled for grants could receive a third payment in the summer," Zehren said.

While the cost of tuition will remain the same for the summer session, the fee structure is also being revamped.

"The fees will be spread out between sessions instead of slamming the first session bill with fees," Sando said.

Summer school applications will be posted to the Web beginning March 23, but some students and faculty feel there is a lack of awareness regarding the changes.

"I don't think most students are aware of this new three-week option for some classes," mass communications professor Jody Mattern said.

Senior Julia Rheault has felt some aggravation with the process so far.

"I need to apply, but I am frustrated because I won't know how much it is until I register," Rheault said. "I need to take out some financial aid

but you can't register until March 9 and it doesn't say how much it is."

The university is unsure of the outcome the changes will produce.

"The schedule seems complicated, and I'm not sure if enough advertising is in the works for it," mass communications department chair Mark Strand said.

If the anticipated faculty layoffs does occur and those affected accept early retirement, courses could end up being offered every other semester, causing a delay in graduations.

"We're trying our best to have summer school fill in for that," Sando said.

Plans for use of the summer school revenue have been determined.

"We hope to use the summer school money when faculty take a sabbatical," Sando said. "If they are gone for the year, we pay 80 percent of the salary."

"If they are gone one semester we pay that flat out. That is why we are hoping to have enough money left over from summer session. We hope to use that money to provide classes for other students. It offers us budgetary replacements."

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INSURANCE, FRONT

for a service they don't want. "I can remember in one instance someone opted out before the deadline and was billed for it," Loker said.

"Blue Cross Blue Shield, who was their current health care provider, found out about that and removed them from their parents' plan," he said.

Warren Wiese, vice president of student affairs, defended the plan, stating that the university received some positive feedback about the policy.

"You don't hear the comments from students and parents who are glad that we've done this," Wiese said. "It's a small, vocal group of people who have complained, and I would hate for that to be the driving force to change things, at least so quickly, because it's doing a lot of good for a lot of

people."

While the senate feels the idea of providing students with a healthcare policy is sound, their objections revolve largely around dissatisfaction with its execution.

"The student senate doesn't believe that there shouldn't be health care offered to the student body the university, it's just that the health care policy in its current form is really not very good for the student body," Loker said.

Wiese explained that since the policy is a MnSCU pilot program and still in its testing phases, problems might arise that need to be ironed out.

"We learn from doing, and we learn from our mistakes," Wiese said.

Sailer can be reached at sailerbe@mnstate.edu

GRANT, FRONT

spotting abnormalities in switched. If the infant shows signs of interest, such as blinking,

The unofficial slogan of the research is "cute babies doing smart things." This slogan basically sums up the entire project.

"You can't have the baby tell you the info you want to know," Nawrot said. "This is why we must test them."

Infants with their parents are placed in front of a computer screen where a 3-D image is shown. This image is shown until the baby shows signs of boredom, called habituation, then the image is

“

It's interesting to be in the research and to find out where we came from so that we know where we're going.

Kaity Jacobs
Junior Psychology Major

Nawrot a \$150,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Nawrot isn't the only one involved in this research. Max Johnson, a pediatric ophthalmologist from Retina Consultants in Fargo, is heavily involved in the research.

There is also a crew of

MSUM students helping the experiments.

"It's an amazing experience that I can be making a difference," junior Kaity Jacobs, a psychology major, said about her help in the research. "It's interesting to be in the research and to find out where we came from so that we know where we're going."

Nawrot said her students are very important to the project. She has three students running the experiments and three students in the honor apprentice program helping her as well.

"I am so pleased they picked the child development lab," Nawrot said of her students.

Jason can be reached at jasonan@mnstate.edu

LECTURE, FRONT

When considering who could be watching, this might just mean a friend of a friend seeing personal pictures. However, it can also head in the other extreme of online stalking.

There are many different ways personal contact information is reachable, as well as many different ways to protect it. Google is just one way to find personal information, and "people searches" are becoming an industry all in themselves.

"The people search industry is definitely growing. There are several 'data miners' or 'data brokers' that collect per-

sonal information and compile these results into a database. Several of these people search engines are Pipl, Delver and Wink," Kramer said.

Keeping privacy settings high is important and can be very beneficial. But sometimes it's not enough.

"Data miners can get a hold of personal information before these settings are set," Kramer said.

Database privacy can be grouped into three parts; data collectors, data managers and data subjects.

Data collectors might sell data. They also may not correct informational errors and

might not take proper security measure.

Data managers may keep data for any length of time. They also have the ability to link old data to new third parties. They also may sell data.

Data subjects carry most of the risk. They have to buy in with data collection, and may be lenient with accounts.

Identity theft has been a nationwide issue for years. Identity extraction is the stealing of ideas, creative works,

property, identity and attitudes. Being a victim of theft can range from either someone copying a poem off of a MySpace page to someone stealing personal banking information.

Sophomore Erik Dodds has had minimal issues with internet security.

"I just get a little worried in public places, with people seeing my passwords and stuff. Also some people on Facebook just plain creep me

out," Dodds said.

"The Internet is so amazing. Privacy is so easy to maintain, yet identity thieves make it seem so easy to get past into personal information," Kramer said.

Kramer recommends the Web site www.ongaurdonline.com for more information about Internet safety and privacy.

McAllister can be reached at mcallister@mnstate.edu

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